

DRAFT DELTA-WIDE VISIONING CONCEPT

NOTE: The attached information has been distributed for discussion purposes only and has not been approved by the Resources Agency or the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency.

Commission staff has provided comments on the draft that include:

- Addition of the DPC Land Use and Resource Management Plan for the Primary Zone in the list of reference documents pertaining to planning efforts underway.
- Inclusion of agricultural in citations with respect to vision goals.
- Inclusion of Transportation, Urban Development, and Local and State Economy within the purview of the Commission on Table 1.
- With respect to governance, inclusion of the Commission Chair/Executive Director on the State & Federal Agency Committee the role of which is to provide policy and program input and inclusion of Commission staff on the Stakeholder Advisory Committee which will provide input to work groups and Delta Vision staff.
- Inclusion of Delta Resource Conservation and Development Council on the Stakeholder Advisory Committee in addition to resource conservation districts and local water agencies.

Commission staff will continue to participate in the Delta Visioning Discussions and to provide updates to the Commission.

NOTE: This overview of the Delta Vision Process is a straw proposal for discussion purposes and has not been approved by the Resources Agency or Business, Transportation and Housing. The purpose of this proposal is to begin vetting how to frame and implement the Delta Vision Process with stakeholders, government agencies, and other interests prior to setting a course.

Delta Vision Process Overview

- Discussion Draft -

Why are we undertaking the Delta Vision Process (Need)?

In 2005, a number of planning efforts and legislation¹ have reaffirmed and underscored prior findings that the current uses, resources, and ecosystem of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta are unsustainable over the next 100 years or more. These planning efforts have documented how changing environmental, hydrologic, climatic, and land use conditions can jeopardize the Delta's natural and human infrastructure under current regulatory requirements and management practices. There is also growing recognition that prior Delta strategic planning efforts have been too narrowly focused given the Delta's many uses and resources.

In October 2005, Governor Schwarzenegger signed into law Assembly Bill 1200 (Water Code Sections 139.2 and 139.4), which requires "the Department of Water Resources and Department of Fish and Game to evaluate the potential impacts on water supplies derived from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta resulting from subsidence, earthquakes, floods, changes in precipitation, temperature, and ocean levels, and a combination of those impacts. ... and "to identify, evaluate, and comparatively rate the principal options available to implement certain objectives that relate to the delta or the Sacramento and San Joaquin river systems."

What is the DVP intended outcome (Mission and Goals)?

The Delta Vision Process will be a significant public process designed to find substantial agreement on recommendations among elected officials, government agencies, stakeholders, subject matter experts, and affected California communities on:

1. The multiple uses, resources and ecosystem in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta that can be sustained over the next 100 years or more (listed in Table 1),
2. The array of public policies and resource management strategies needed to move toward this strategic vision for the Delta, and
3. A near-term (next 25-50 years) contingency and emergency response plan for a catastrophic event in the Delta.

¹ California Water Plan Update 2005
CALFED Bay Delta Program 10-Year Action Plan Framework
Flood Warnings: Responding to California's Flood Crisis, DWR
AB 1200 (Water Code Sections 139.2 and 139.4)
Review of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, Little Hoover Commission
Blueprint for California Water, Association of California Water Agencies
Investment Strategy for California Water, Planning and Conservation League

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A number of supporting DVP goals have been identified for this discussion draft:

1. Advance the science and raise public awareness about changing environmental, hydrologic, climatic, and land use conditions facing the Delta now and in the future, including: seismic risks, subsidence, sea-level rise, global climate change impacts, invasive species, toxics, urban development, and other factors.
2. Reduce risks to life, property, infrastructure within the Delta, to Delta ecosystem functions, and to the local and statewide economy.
3. Manage Delta hydrodynamics, water conveyance, and quality to provide multiple resource benefits and sustain multiple Delta uses.
4. Protect the quality of drinking water supplies conveyed through, and exported from, the Delta.
5. Respect cultural values of Delta communities.

How will the DVP relate with other Delta planning efforts (Approach)?

The DVP will involve current Delta planning efforts on its various uses and resources by local, State, federal and tribal governments and organizations. A key principle is to build the DVP, to the extent possible, around existing Delta planning, technical, and scientific efforts, and avoid creating redundant organizational structures.

Table 1 is a work in progress to show the current Delta planning efforts and the Delta uses and resources they cover, directly and indirectly. This table needs to be vetted and refined at the beginning of the DVP. It will help identify overlaps and gaps in information and past efforts, and ways to leverage expertise and contributions. The planning efforts listed in the final version of Table 1 must be shown on the DVP Organization Chart described in the next section to ensure that everyone has a place at the table.

A major challenge and opportunity for the DVP is to promote communication among, bridge and integrate the many on-going Delta policy and technical planning efforts, in ways that mutually help the individual efforts and the DVP to achieve their missions and goals. For example, prior to the DVP, the Delta Risk Management Strategy (DRMS) has considered and taken on many of the same goals, activities and functions as the DVP. The DVP will build on the information developed from the DRMS effort.

How will the DVP function and make decisions (Organization & Governance)?

Figure 1 is a work in progress DVP organization chart showing who should be involved in the DVP and their roles and responsibilities, namely: implementing recommendations, making recommendations, managing and facilitating the process, conducting policy and technical work, providing advice and review.

The Delta Vision Process is authorized by the Governor, endorsed by the Legislature, and sponsored by the Agency Secretaries of Resources and Business, Transportation, and Housing. The Agency Secretaries will oversee the DVP, represent the Administration, attend Plenary Sessions, and are responsible for the DVP outcome.

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A 7-member Blue Ribbon Panel, representing diverse interests selected by the Governor (3 members), State Senate (2 members) and Assembly (2 members), will make the final recommendations to the Agency Secretaries, Governor and Legislature. One option is to fashion the Blue Ribbon Panel after the Military Base Closure Commission. Another option is to merge the function of the Panel into the Steering Committee described below.

A diverse Steering Committee (somewhere between 11 to 15 members) will lead the DVP. The Resources and BTH Agency Secretaries, or their designees, will be Co-Chairs of the Steering Committee and represent the Steering Committee to others and add value to resources. The State Senate and Assembly will each appoint one representative, and the Governor and/or the Agency Secretaries will appoint the other 7 to 11 members to represent the diverse interests in, and affected by, the Delta. If it is decided to merge the Blue Ribbon Panel functions into the Steering Committee, the Governor, Senate and Assembly would appoint 7 of the Steering Committee members as described above. The Agency Secretaries will also appoint a Program Manager to the Steering Committee to manage the day to day business of the DVP.

To create a fair, open and transparent process, impartial third party facilitation will conduct meetings of the Plenary, Steering Committee, State-Federal Agency Committee, and Advisory Committee, as well as public workshops; and if needed, Work Group meetings.

The DVP will draft charters for the Blue Ribbon Panel, Steering Committee, State-Federal Agency Committee, Advisory Committee, and Work Groups.

How will the DVP include subject matter experts, stakeholders, government agencies, and the public (Public Involvement)?

State and federal government agencies will provide both policy and technical advice and review through the State-Federal Agency Committee. The newly-formed Executive Leadership Council and Resources Agency Science Division, along with other agencies and planning efforts are represented on the Agency Committee.

A diverse and broad public Advisory Committee will provide advice and review on issues, findings, scenarios, management strategies, and recommendations. AC members will represent both in-Delta interests and those affected by the Delta. About a dozen stakeholder types are listed in the Figure 1 DVP Organization Chart. It is envisioned that the AC will be made up of about 25 to 30 members.

Several resource and subject-oriented Work Groups will compile, evaluate, and synthesize technical information, and conduct new studies contingent on available time and funding. Work Groups will integrate resource-based findings to compose multiple future scenarios (for 50-, 100- and 200-years) and evaluate alternative resource management strategies for the Delta. The Work Groups will have to work closely with, and preferably include, subject matter experts from on-going Delta evaluations, such as the Delta Risk Management Strategy (DRMS).

The DVP will organize and facilitate numerous and different types of meetings: Plenary Session, State-Federal Agency Committee, Work Groups, Advisory Committee, and public workshops.

What are the DVP interim products and schedule (Work Plan)?

Key DVP products identified so far are listed below with proposed due dates. The Steering Committee with input from the State-Federal Agency Committee, Advisory Committee and Work

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Groups will identify other supporting activities and products. The DVP is scheduled for completion by January 2008, to meet AB 1200 requirements and feed into CALFED's end of State 1 decision making process.

Deliverable	Due Date
Convene a Delta Vision Science Panel to compile, review, and synthesize the latest relevant scientific literature and information. Information from the DV Science Panel will be used by the Work Groups to compose multiple Delta scenarios and generate alternative resource management strategies.	Panel continuously provides information
Initiate the Delta Vision Process and hold the first Plenary Session.	March 2006
Release DVP Framework document for public comment. The framework document will summarize the DV Science Panel findings, technical Work Groups findings, and an array of initial Delta scenarios.	January 2007
Release DVP Scenarios and Management Strategies document for public comment. This document will include: 1) a reduced set of Delta scenarios based on input from the Advisory Committee, State-Federal Agencies Committee, Work Groups, and public workshops, 2) an initial set of alternative management strategies for achieving the Delta scenarios, and 3) a draft Delta Contingency and Emergency Plan for dealing with catastrophic events.	July 2007
Release draft Blue Ribbon Panel recommendations for public comment.	September 2007
Submit Final DVP Report with Blue Ribbon Panel Recommendations to the Secretaries of Resources and BTH, the Governor and Legislature.	January 2008

How will the DVP be funded (Budget)?

The Steering Committee will prepare a detailed DVP work plan and budget. As with other strategic planning efforts, the scope and intensity of the DVP will be constrained by available knowledge, expertise, human resources, and funding. The required DVP budget is also constrained by the relatively short timeline.

It is assumed that a significant portion of DVP resources and funding, in particular agency and stakeholder involvement, will be in the form of in-kind services from the participating Delta planning efforts and stakeholders.

However, an additional \$4 million to \$6 million will be needed over the duration of the DVP to compensate the Blue Ribbon Panel members and perhaps some Steering Committee members; to hire facilitation, technical, and process consultants; to pay expenses for meetings and public workshops; and to reimburse Advisory Committee members who submit expense claims as State volunteers.

To date, the water project contractors and hydropower operators have committed to pay 50 percent of the cost of the DVP up to a maximum of \$2 million annually, not to exceed \$4 million in total. DWR and DFG will obtain at least an equivalent amount of funding from private or public sources, including from future bond funding. (Regulatory Commitments – User Contributions, Statement of Principles, December 19, 2005).

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**Table 1: Delta Resources and Uses Covered by Delta Planning Efforts
and the Delta Vision Process**

Resources >> & Activities >>	Delta Planning Efforts	Land Use Planning	Agriculture	Transportation	Utilities	Urban Development	Bay-Delta Ecosystem	Flood Protection	Water Conveyance & Quality	Air Quality	Navigation	Recreation	Energy	Local & State Economy
Delta Vision Process		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
AB 1200		○	○	○	○		○	●	●		○	●		
Delta Risk Management Study		○	○	○	●		○	●	○		○	○		
Delta Regional Ecosystem Restoration Implementation Plan		○	○		○		●	○	●	○	●	○		
Delta Protection Commission		●	●	○	●	○	●	●	●	○	●	●		○
SF Bay Conservation and Development Commission		●	●	○	●	○	●	●	●	○	●	●		○
Sacramento Area Council of Governments		●	○	●	○	○	○	○		●	○	○		○
San Joaquin Council of Governments		●	○	●	○	○	○		○	○		○		●
Association of Bay Area Governments		●	○	●	○		○	○	○	○		○		●
California Partnership for San Joaquin Valley		●	●	●	○	●	○	○	○	○		○	○	●
State Parks Central Valley Vision		○	○		○		○					●		○
CALFED Program			●		●		●	●	●		○	○	○	
Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement & Charter					○		●	○	●		○	○		
California Water Plan		○	●		●		●	○	●		○	○	○	
Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan			○			○	●	●	●		●	○		○

● Direct consideration
○ Indirect consideration

Figure 1: Delta Vision Process Organization Chart

* Note: Prior to the DVP, the Delta Risk Management Strategy (DRMS) has considered and taken on many of the same goals, activities and functions as the DVP. The DVP will build on the information developed from the DRMS effort

